INFORMATION LETTER

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NEW OPA REGULATION REVISES METHOD FOR DEDUCTING RAW MATERIAL COST AS WAS AUTHORIZED IN PM NO. 2

Amendment 20 to Supplement 7 Also Contains a Number of Other Pricing Changes

Amendment 20 to Supplement 7 issued January 20 by the Office of Price Administration and effective January 25, revises the method for deducting the raw material cost from the 1943 price as was authorized in Pricing Method No. 2, as follows:

5. Section 6 (a) (4) is amended to read as follows:

(4) *Subtract the 1943 raw material cost.* Next, the processor shall subtract the 1943 raw material cost per dozen containers or other unit as required to be figured under Maximum Price Regulation No. 306 or 493. The deduction shall include any hauling and transportation charges reflected in his maximum price for the 1943 pack.

The method for subtracting the 1942 raw material costs is likewise amended as follows:

7. Section 6 (b) (2) is amended to read as follows:

(2) *Subtract the 1942 raw material cost.* Next, the processor shall subtract the 1942 raw material cost per dozen containers or other unit as required to be figured under Maximum Price Regulation 152 or 185. In the case of packed apples and applesauce, the 1942 raw material cost to be subtracted shall be figured by adding to the processor's 1941 raw material cost 8¼ per cent of his "base price" as required to be figured under § 1341.404 of Revised Maximum Price Regulation 233, and in the case of apple juice and sweet cider, the 1942 raw material cost to be subtracted shall be figured by adding to the processor's 1941 raw material cost the amount of 6 cents per gallon apportioned to each unit in the manner explained in § 1341.406 (b) (3) of that regulation. The deduction shall include any hauling and transportation charges reflected in his maximum price for the 1942 pack.

Information to be supplied OPA when requesting individual prices is amended to read as follows:

8. Section 10 (d) is amended to read as follows:

(d) Individual authorization of maximum prices (Section 2.5 of FPR 1), This section shall also apply to secondary processors. In addition to the information required to be furnished under Section 2.5 of FPR 1, the applicant shall state in the application his case (unit) yields, on the basis of No. 2 cans for vegetables and No. 2½ cans for fruits and berries, for each of the years 1941, 1942 and 1943 in which he packed the product. If he did not pack the product in any of those years, he shall state his current case yields. For the purpose of this supplement, the

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ESSENTIAL AND CRITICAL ACTIVITIES LISTED BY WMC

Sent to Selective Service as Guide in Inducting 26-29 Age Groups

The War Manpower Commission announced on January 16 a list of essential and critical activities to be used by Selective Service as a guide in the induction of men in the 26 through 29 age groups, in accordance with the directive issued by James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion. The list was drafted after consultation with representatives of the Army, Navy, Selective Service, War Production Board and the War Manpower Commission. All the activities in the list are essential activities, but there is further designation of critical activities.

Item 5 in the list covers agriculture and commercial fishing and item 6, the processing of food. These items are listed as follows (the critical activities in each being indicated by capitals):

5. Agriculture and Commercial Fishing

(a) Agriculture

(b) Agricultural Services.—Agricultural, horticultural, and animal husbandry services such as: Commercial poultry hatcheries; seed processing; animal breeding; crop disease protection services; initial processing services such as ginning, compressing, threshing, cleaning, shelling and curing; irrigation services; farm repair and maintenance services; farm product assembly services; grist milling (custom); ice harvesting.

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Approval of Board–Council Meetings Formally Requested

In conformance with plans announced in last week's INFORMATION LETTER, the Association has filed with War Committee on Conventions a formal application for approval of the proposed meetings of members of the Administrative Council on Februray 4 and the Board of Directors on February 5 and 6. The regulations provide that such approval is necessary for group meetings of over 50 persons.

In its application the Association pointed out that, from the outbreak of the war, it has made consistent efforts to conserve both travel and hotel facilities first, by substituting a processors' conference with limited attendance for the usual convention held in conjunction with allied trade groups, which brought together 10,000 to 15,000 people representing all branches of the processed food industry and trade.

The meetings of the Council and Board now proposed are a further drastic reduction, and represent the minimum sized group that can adequately and satisfactorily represent the industry and Association in meetings designed to receive and discuss the 1945 food production plans and regulations.

Canned Fish Set-aside Increased

Packers of California pilchards, Pacific mackerel and Pacific horse mackerel have been asked by the War Food Administration to increase their quotas to be reserved for delivery to government agencies, from 55 per cent of each canner's pack to 100 per cent of the pack. Set-aside percentages on other classes of canned fish remain unchanged.

The action, taken in amendment 7 to War Food Order 44, became effective January 14. Its provisions affect only the fish packed on and after the effective date. The amendment results from recent increased requirements of the armed services.

The amendment also extends the effective period of WFO 44 from February 28, 1945, to March 31, 1945, for all classes of fish included in the order.

WFA Canned Food Purchases Listed for 12-Month Period

The cost of canned foods purchased by the War Food Administration for Lend-lease, Territorial emergency, Red Cross, and other purposes during the period January 1 through December 31, 1944, totaled $347,913,367. From a statement of these purchases, the following table has been compiled showing quantities and the f. o. b. cost of the canned food products bought during the 12-month period:

Products	Quantity	Cost
	Cases	
Canned fruits:		
Apricots (pie pack)	370,365	$1,816,133
Apricots (syrup pack)	477,712	2,098,007
Blueberries	2,000	9,600
Cherries, sweet	1,897	8,304
Figs	90,946	310,372
Fruit cocktail	109,678	645,668
Grapefruit segments	122,987	433,291
Peaches (pie pack)	223,754	845,732
Peaches (syrup pack)	1,117,264	4,650,039
Pears (pie pack)	616	2,159
Pears (syrup pack)	398,456	2,148,910
Pineapple	809,960	3,693,945
Prunes (syrup pack)	67,152	264,052
Canned vegetables:		
Asparagus	1,738	10,841
Beans, green	1,062,633	3,070,269
Beets	393,693	922,540
Carrots	273,195	652,480
Peas	545,815	1,848,410
Pumpkin	16,448	35,908
Sauerkraut	905	1,445
Spinach	208,875	546,551
Tomato paste	409,170	2,311,974
Tomato puree	98,900	284,408
Tomatoes	1,025,901	2,707,032
Canned juices:		
Grapefruit	620,158	1,696,063
Pineapple	12,000	42,227
Tomato	92,145	176,302
Canned fish:		
Herring	77,180	379,927
Mackerel	580,664	3,192,912
Pilchards	1,981,265	8,382,113
Salmon	3,458,646	34,948,405
Sardines	1,532,528	6,922,934
Shrimp	8,986	102,324
Squid	49,548	189,763
Tuna and tuna-like fish	1,358	27,093
Miscellaneous:		
Baby foods	5,236	1,813
Soups	49,171	249,658
Milk:		
Condensed	1,544,064	10,032,276
Evaporated	13,094,466	52,028,102
Canned meat:	*Pounds*	
Beef	45,355,845	14,132,948
Meat and food products and rations	6,707,918	2,140,187
Pork	476,162,173	174,212,013
Vienna sausage and potted meat	23,927,301	9,022,043
Canned poultry:		
Chicken	315,432	389,733
Turkey	283,076	326,352

Reduction in Spinach Acreage

Spinach processors in California and Texas intend to plant a total of 16,300 acres of spinach for canning or freezing in 1945, according to reports received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is a reduction of about 7 per cent from the 1944 planted acreage of 17,480 acres, BAE said. For the 10-year (1934-43) period, the average acreage planted in these two States was 17,500 acres.

California spinach processors expect to increase the acreage for 1945 about 3 per cent but this is more than off-set by the reduction of 25 per cent in prospect for Texas.

Most Stores Have Stocks of Canned Vegetables, BLS Says

The December 12th report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on stocks of foods in independent stores covered by its regular monthly survey in 56 large cities shows that 71 per cent of the stores were out of canned salmon, 58 per cent out of canned pineapple, and 54 per cent out of canned cherries. On the other hand, none of the stores were out of canned peaches or canned mixed fruits, and 1 per cent were out of canned corn, peas, and green and wax beans. The following table shows the percentage of independent stores covered by the survey that were out of stocks of specified canned products on December 12 as compared with November 14 and October 17:

Product	Oct. 17	Nov. 14	Dec. 12
	Pct.	*Pct.*	*Pct.*
Peaches	43	39	..
Apricots	..	..	13
Pineapple	55	58	58
Mixed fruit	49	40	..
Cherries	..	..	54
Applesauce	..	12	7
Corn	1	1	1
Peas	1	1	1
Tomatoes	3	3	2
Beans, green and wax	..	..	1
Salmon	84	80	71
Milk	1	1	..

Winter Vegetable Crop is Off

Prospects for winter-season commercial truck crops were about the same on January 1 as a month earlier, despite periods of unfavorable weather during December in Florida, Texas, and California, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. The month as a whole, however, was about as usual for this time of year, and production prospects for most winter crops remained near the December 1 indication. Green lima beans and green peas were more severely affected by the adverse weather than other crops and prospective production of these crops was reduced significantly. Present estimates covering the 17 winter truck crops indicate reductions from 1944 of 9 per cent for acreage and 12 per cent for aggregate tonnage but both acreage and tonnage should be well above the 10-year (1934-43) averages.

Increased acreages of winter lima beans, carrots, cauliflower, celery, and tomatoes are indicated, but reductions for artichokes, snap beans, beets, cabbage, eggplant, escarole, kale, lettuce, green peas, green peppers, and spinach more than offset these increases.

Indicated tonnages of 1945 winter crops expressed as percentages of 1944 and the 10-year averages, respectively, are as follows: Artichokes, 88 and 80; green lima beans, 133 and 144; snap beans, 92 and 132; beets, 82 and 132; cabbage, 72 and 150; carrots, 109 and 180; cauliflower, 105 and 133; celery, 104 and 133; eggplant, 79 and 277; escarole, 90 and 210; kale, 73 and 105; lettuce, 89 and 128; green peas, 100 and 68; green peppers, 64 and 155; shallots, 122 and 69; spinach, 90 and 97; tomatoes, 129 and 155; and the combined total of 18 crops, 88 and 140 per cent.

1944 Canned Seafood Pack Was Four Per Cent Up Over 1943

Despite short supplies of canned fish on grocers' shelves, the pack produced by U. S. fisheries in 1944 was four per cent larger than in the preceding year and in one instance—Maine sardines—broke all previous records, the Office of Coordinator of Fisheries has reported. The shortage to the civilian consumer is caused by heavy government demands for canned fish. With the exception of salmon and shrimp, all major items in the canned fish pack showed increases in 1944.

The Maine sardine industry packed 3,158,000 cases—a gain of better than three-quarters of a million cases over the preceding year. The year's pack of large sea herring reached a total of 101,000 cases, as against 68,000 in 1943. The pack of larger sardines or pilchards canned on the West Coast totaled 3,701,000 cases in 1944. In 1943, the pack was only 3,388,000 cases.

The tuna fishery, despite the fact that many of its clippers are still in military service, enjoyed one of the best years in its history with a pack of about 3,500,000 cases. The only larger packs were recorded in 1939 and 1940—3,600,000 and 4,200,000 cases, respectively.

The Pacific mackerel fishery packed about 900,000 cases, compared with 831,000 in 1943.

The salmon pack declined because of smaller runs of fish in some areas of Alaska. Total salmon pack figures, including the northwestern States and Alaska, were 5,125,000 cases, compared with 5,678,000 cases in 1943.

The pack of Gulf coast shrimp fell from 441,000 cases in 1943 to 390,000 last year.

Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Stocks Held in Cold Storage

Stocks of frozen fruits in storage on January 1, 1945, totaled 269,092,000 pounds against 291,204,000 on December 1, 1944, and 227,035,000 on January 1, 1944, according to the War Food Administration. Frozen vegetable stocks on January 1, 1945, were 167,909,000 pounds against 182,623,000 on December 1, 1944, and 155,803,000 on January 1, 1944. The following table furnishes details by commodities:

Frozen Fruits	Jan. 1, 1944 1,000 lbs.	Dec. 1, 1944 1,000 lbs.	Jan. 1, 1945 1,000 lbs.
Apples	.....	22,640	34,154
Blackberries	8,823	12,401	11,272
Cherries	19,925	40,810	34,447
Young, Logan, Boysen	4,261	9,883	8,997
Raspberries	15,731	14,789	13,086
Strawberries	23,629	23,130	19,504
Grapes	.....	20,730	19,414
Plums and prunes	.....	14,637	14,240
Peaches	.....	33,820	30,020
Fruit juices and purees	.....	19,940	15,740
*All other fruits	154,666	78,394	68,218
Total	227,035	291,204	269,092
Frozen Vegetables			
Asparagus	5,554	6,853	6,423
Beans, lima	10,812	13,766	12,301
Beans, snap	14,819	17,491	16,221
Broccoli	2,046	4,148	4,511
Cauliflower	.....	2,601	2,930
Corn, sweet	16,235	21,054	19,331
Peas, green	44,317	53,723	45,850
Spinach	11,869	15,552	16,973
Brussel sprouts	.....	2,773	3,765
Pumpkin and squash	.....	7,932	8,634
Baked beans	.....	5,068	3,869
Vegetable purees	.....	623	781
All other vegetables	80,151	32,419	26,321
Total	185,803	182,623	167,909

* Includes some fruits named above but reported as "miscellaneous."

Amendment to M-81 Changes Tinplate Quotas for Some Fruits

The percentage of tinplate usage for cans made entirely of 1.50 tinplate for the packing of fruit cocktail, peaches, and pears for filling WFO-22 set-aside has been placed at 70 per cent of the average annual area of tinplate used for packing these products in 1943 and 1944, with products interchangeable, according to Amendment No. 1 to Container Order M-81 issued January 17.

According to M-81 as issued January 1, the tinplate quota for can ends for fruit cocktail and peaches was set at 65 per cent of the average area of tinplate used in ends of such cans in the calendar years 1943 and 1944, and, similarly, the quota for pears was 90 per cent.

The amendment now lists these products under one heading in Schedule A, column (1) as item "9—Fruits," with no change in the text of the definitions. The packing quota is unlimited when the products are packed in Nos. 2½ and 10 cans with 1.50 tin bodies and 0.50 tin ends. When packed in the same can sizes but with 1.50 ends, the packing quota is as follows: "70 per cent of average annual area of tinplate in 1943 and 1944. Products are interchangeable. Cans packed under this quota must all be used for filling WFO-22 set-aside."

NEW OPA REGULATION

(Concluded from page 8483)

proposed maximum price shall be deemed to have been authorized 30 days after mailing the application (or all additional information that may have been requested) unless, within that time, the Office of Price Administration has mailed the applicant a notice to the contrary.

NOTE: The applicant should remember to allow sufficient time after the expiration of the 30-day period to permit notification by mail to reach him before he assumes that no action has been taken by the Office of Price Administration during that period.

The prices for snap beans for Maryland and New Jersey (Area 4) are included in this amendment. They are the same as the prices listed for Area 3 in Amendment 6 to Supplement 7 issued August 30, 1944. A number of other minor changes to the regulation were included in this amendment.

Complete text of the amendment will be mailed later to canners.

Advisory Committees Meet

The Industry Advisory Committees for Canned Fruits and Canned Vegetables were called to Washington on January 15 and 16 to confer with the Office of Price Administration and the War Food Administration on the production and pricing programs for 1945. These meetings afforded an opportunity for the agencies to present their tentative plans and for members of the committees to offer their suggestions and recommendations.

Tomato Growing in Kansas

The most important problems to be taken into consideration in growing tomatoes in Kansas are discussed in a recent bulletin issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Manhattan, entitled "Tomato Production in Kansas, Bulletin 313." In that State, first attention is directed toward the protection of the drop in drought conditions. Another important consideration is prevailing high winds which often result in poor set of fruit. The bulletin describes cultural practices to be followed, suggests varieties for use in certain areas in the State, and recommends measures for control of diseases and insects. Production suggestions include use of a windbreak and irrigation.

ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES

(Concluded from page 8483)

(c) Commercial Fishing.—Including fish hatcheries (conservation or commercial) and sponges: Gathering, bleaching, cutting, and trimming.

6. Processing of Food.—MEAT and poultry packing and slaughtering; production of DAIRY PRODUCTS, EGGS, fish and nuts, fruits and vegetables and their juices, soups, flour and other grain mill products, prepared feeds for animals and fowls, starch, cereals, rice, bread and other bakery products, SUGAR, leavening compounds, corn syrup, fats and oils, ice. Includes dried, preserved, dehydrated, frozen, canned, and other special-processed foods.

All activities in the complete list are essential, but as will be seen from the above listing of agriculture, commercial fishing, and processing of food, the only activities designated as critical are those of meat packing and slaughtering, production of dairy products and eggs, and sugar processing.

The announcement states that all technical, scientific and research personnel engaged in any of the activities in the list, whether or not the activity appears in capital or small letters, are regarded as being in critical activities.

Local draft boards will be instructed to follow the five-point priority system when they begin reaching into the pool of young men to meet demands of the armed services for 200,000 men in the age group from 26 to 29, according to a statement by Mr. Byrnes.

Dividing war programs into "critical" and "essential" activities, Mr. Byrnes said men should be taken in this order:

1. Registrants not employed in any of the activities on the specific list of essential activities.

2. Registrants engaged in relatively unimportant jobs in the "essential but not critical activities" and registrants who may be replaced "without difficulty."

3. Men employed in relatively unimportant jobs in "critical" war programs and registrants in such programs who may be replaced without difficulty.

4. Registrants engaged in relatively more important jobs in "essential but not critical activities."

5. Registrants engaged in more important jobs in "critical activities."

FERTILIZERS FOR CANNERY PEAS EXPLAINED IN REPORT

During the 10-year period,* 1932-41, Michigan farmers produced, on the average, 11,650 acres of cannery peas with an average acre yield of 1328 pounds, according to an article, "Fertilizers for Cannery Peas," which appeared in Volume 26, No. 3, of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station Quarterly. The average yearly return from the crop amounted to $365,000 or $30.93 per acre. The return from this crop has varied greatly, from year to year, ranging from $132,000 in 1932 to $720,000 in 1942. This is largely due to seasonal variation in yield, price, and acreage planted.

The production of cannery peas is an extensive commercial enterprise † with approximately eight different companies engaged in packing peas in the State. These companies operate approximately 32 viner stations. There are three main areas in the State that produce peas, namely, the area comprising Bay, Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac and St. Clair counties, an area adjacent to Owosso and the area surrounding Fremont.

Peas grown in adapted areas is a good crop to grow for a number of reasons, including the following:

1. An additional source of cash income is provided.

2. The vines serve as a source of silage for livestock.

3. Peas mature in 55 to 70 days, and occasionally two crops may be harvested from the same field in one season, an early crop of peas followed by a crop of field beans.

4. A seedbed for a succeeding crop is easily prepared on pea ground.

5. The crop fits in well with a number of farming systems including general farming, dairy farming or a system of farming consisting predominantly of cash crops.

6. The liquid that drains away from the fermenting pea stack contains an appreciable amount of potash with traces of nitrogen and phosphoric acid and could be utilized by farmers as a fertilizer. An analysis of a sample of this liquid indicates that there is as much potash in 100 gallons as is contained in approximately 50 pounds of 2-16-8 fertilizer.

The crop thrives in a comparatively cool climate in which a plentiful supply of moisture uniformly distributed throughout the growing season is available.

Peas grow best on the well-drained fertile loams, silt loams and clay loam soils. It is desirable to have the crop ripen evenly; therefore, it is necessary to provide good drainage, either through tile drains or a complete system of open drains or dead furrows. Uneven areas that are difficult to drain should not be planted to peas.

The seedbed should be firm and smooth in order to obtain as uniform a stand and subsequent evenness in ripening as possible. The field should be free from heavy weed infestation. Quack grass, bind weed, wild mustard, or Canada thistle are especially troublesome. Peas do best on the most fertile soils and any means employed of keeping the soil in a high state of fertility will be reflected in higher yields. Soils should be kept well supplied with organic matter through the use of manure and green manure crops. The importance of commercial fertilizer is shown by the experimental results discussed in this report.

Experiments regarding analysis and placement * of fertilizers on cannery peas were started in 1938 by members of the Soil Science Department in cooperation with Mr. G. A. Cumings and staff of the Division of Agricultural Engineering of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering of the U. S. D. A. The Bureau supplied a special type grain drill equipped to place the fertilizer in bands to the side of and below the seed. This drill was also used for placing fertilizer in contact with the seed or drilling it in before planting, the usual methods of application in Michigan.

Four different methods of fertilizer placement were tried:

1. Fertilizer placed in contact with the seed;

2. Fertilizer placed in bands one-half inch to the side of and one and one-half inches below the seed;

3. Fertilizer placed in bands two inches to the side of and one and one-half inches below the seed, and

4. Fertilizer drilled in deep with a grain drill before planting.

The fertilizers used in the experiments were 4-16-4, 0-20-0, 0-16-8 and 4-16-8 at the rates of 300 pounds per acre for the 4-16-4, 0-16-8 and 4-16-8 and 240 pounds per acre for the 0-20-0. The lower rate of 0-20-0 was used to obtain an amount of phosphate equivalent to that applied in the other fertilizers.

The rate of seeding was 4 bushels per acre. Early varieties were grown in 1938, 1939 and 1940, with late varieties seeded in 1941, 1942 and 1943.

Recommendations

1. Fertilizers for cannery peas should not be placed in contact with the seed.

2. Fertilizers should be placed in bands approximately ½ inch to the side the seed and 1½ inches or more if possible below the seed. However, there are no commercial machines available to fertilize peas in this manner at the present time, so the next best method is to drill in the fertilizer 3 inches or more deep just prior to planting. *Do not disturb the fertilizer by deep tillage operations after it is drilled into the soil.*

3. A fertilizer containing both phosphorus and potash (0-14-7 or 0-20-10) should be applied for cannery peas. On the lighter colored soils or on non-livestock farms or where for any other reason it is felt that nitrogen may be needed, apply a complete fertilizer such as 2-16-8, 2-12-6 or 4-16-4. The rate of application should be 300 pounds per acre.

* Crop Report for Michigan, Annual Crop and Livestock Summary, Jan.-Feb., 1943. U. S. D. A. Bur. of Agr. Econ. in cooperation with Michigan Dept. of Agr., Bur. of Agr. Industry.

† Appreciation is expressed to the various Michigan canning companies who supplied the information regarding the scope of the packing operations.

* Placement of fertilizers refers to the placing of the fertilizer in bands in various locations with respect to the seed.

Emery Heads Specialties Section

Jacob A. Emery, who has been on the OPA staff since July 1, 1944, and who previously served as an industrial specialist with the WFA, has been appointed head of the OPA Grocery Specialties Section of the Food Price Division. Mr. Emery, who is well known to many canners, was with the Curtis Publishing Company for eleven years as a specialist on research on food distribution problems.

Advisory Committees Praised

Praising their contribution to the country's wartime welfare, Price Administrator Chester Bowles this week gave public recognition to members of all OPA industry advisory committees that have been functioning for two years or longer. All members of food and other committees that have served two years or more will shortly receive individual citations from the Office of Price Adminstration in the form of certificates of award.

Gillette Appointment Confirmed

Appointment of Guy M. Gillette, former Senator from Iowa, as the third member of the Surplus Property Board was confirmed by the Senate on January 18 and he will begin his new duties immediately.

New Method of Applying for Canned Meat Ration Points

A procedure for quick handling of requests from primary distributors of rationed meats, oils or dairy products for establishment of a point value of a specially prepared item sought by a government agency has been provided by the Office of Price Administration in Amendment 34 to Revised Ration Order 16, effective January 12.

All a meat processing company has to do to obtain a point value after that date for an item not listed on the point chart, OPA said, is to wire or write the essential details to the OPA Meat Rationing Branch, Washington 25, D. C., and a point value can be supplied in a very short time. In cases in which a point value is requested by phone, the point value may be established during the course of the phone conversation, provided a confirmation of the request is mailed to the OPA and OPA confirms the point value in writing.

All a manufacturer requesting a point value for a new agency-ordered item has to do is supply OPA with information as to the amount of rationed meat, oils or dairy products going into the item, the final "yield" of the finished product, then OPA within a matter of minutes can determine and establish the point value. This point value will appear also, on the next regularly published trade point chart.

Under the old procedure, a food specially prepared for the Army or some other government agency containing rationed meat-fats could not be sold or transferred until its point value had been established and formalized by an amendment to OPA's meat-fats ration order. (Revised Ration Order 16.)

From time to time, OPA said, meat companies are asked by government agencies, particularly the Army, to prepare foods different from any listed on the ration point chart. Sometimes the new product is made only once, as a sample. Army field rations containing rationed meats and cheeses are examples of specially prepared items for which OPA has established point values for use in transfers from primary distributors to buying agencies.

West Coast Apples Set-aside

The War Food Administration has issued War Food Order No. 121, effective January 16, requiring handlers of fresh apples grown and located in Washington and Oregon to set aside their holdings of Winesap, Newtown and Delicious (except Golden Delicious) varieties to meet military and war service requirements. The order restricts the sale, shipment or delivery of the three varieties of apples by any person except to a government agency.

WFO 121 requires that all shipments or deliveries of more than five bushels of Washington and Oregon Winesap, Newtown, and Delicious (except Golden Delicious) apples be inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service or by some other inspection service approved by WFA. It also requires that every person owning, controlling, or having in storage 500 or more bushels of apples report by mail to WFA within seven calendar days after January 16, (1) the location and quantity of the three varieties of Northwestern apples owned by him; and (2) the quantities, by varieties, of such apples produced by him during the 1944 crop year, or acquired by him since Aug. 1, 1944. Reports should be filed on form FDO 121-1 and mailed to the Deputy Order Administrator, War Food Order No. 121, P. O. Box 1345, Yakima, Washington. An office also will be opened at Wenatchee, Washington. Report forms will be available at either of the two offices.

Market News Office Reopened

The Jacksonville, Fla., office of the Market News Service, Division of Commercial Fisheries of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, reopened January 17 with offices at 221 West Adams Street, Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Market News Office has been inoperative for nearly a year and a half, having been closed August 31, 1943, because of lack of operating funds. Charles D. Stewart will resume charge of the office.

The office will issue daily bulletins and monthly summaries containing market information of interest to the fishing industry in the southern area and in the northern sections which are important markets for southern seafoods.

For the present, principal coverage will be given to shrimp, the south's leading fishery product. Bulletins will report production and canning of shrimp on the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts, truck and rail shipments of fish and shrimp out of Florida producing areas, and receipts and prices of southern fish and shellfish in the New York markets. In addition, a weekly summary of cold storage holdings will be issued.

Persons who wish to receive the bulletins of the Jacksonville Market News Office should address their request to that office.

Mendota Vegetable Soybean

The new Mendota variety of vegetable soybean continues to make a good showing in trials conducted by the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station. Mendota was released to seedsmen in 1943. Limited amounts of seed were on the market in 1944, although most of the available seed is being used for increasing the seed supply.

According to these tests which are reported in the Station's latest report (Bulletin 463) Mendota appears to be the highest-yielding variety of edible soybean now grown in Wisconsin. For example, the yield of mature beans from the 1942 crop at this Station, reduced to a uniform moisture content, was about 31 bushels to the acre for Mendota, compared with 27 for Bansei and 23 for Sousei.

Earliness is an outstanding advantage of Mendota under Wisconsin conditions, for it reaches the immature harvest stage about 10 days ahead of Bansei, or 90 to 95 days from seeding. Mendota matures in 115 to 120 days.

Other advantages are that it is unusually uniform in plant type and maturity, is comparatively free from crinkle mosaic disease, and is of excellent quality for canning or freezing. It is expected that Mendota will find a place in Wisconsin's commercial vegetable soybean industry, which now is rapidly expanding in response to an unprecedented demand for this high-quality protein food.

State Convention Dates

Canners League of California—March 2, Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco.

Ozark Canners Association—February 15 and 16, Colonial Hotel, Springfield, Mo. (Changed from December 8, 1944.)

Tennessee-Kentucky Canners Association—February 19 and 20, Andrew Jackson Hotel, Nashville, Tenn.

Virginia Canners Association—February 27 and 28, Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke.

Mosaic Affects Raspberries

Trial plantings of raspberry varieties in the Spokane Valley show that Indian Summer, Lloyd George, Marcy, Newburg and Taylor varieties are susceptible to infection by the mosaic virus, the Washington Experiment Station at Pullman states in its latest report (Bulletin 435). Based on percentage of plants infected after four years of exposure, the Taylor variety is the most susceptible and the Marcy variety the least susceptible of the varieties tested.

WFA Again Calls on Canners for a Maximum Pack in 1945

In announcing its final agricultural production goals for 1945, the War Food Administration has again asked canners for an all-out maximum production of canned fruits and vegetables to meet increased military needs. In a previous announcement WFA stated that production goals for some canned vegetables would be slightly reduced. However, the final 1945 crop goals for vegetables for processing have been increased from 2,051,000 acres to 2,155,000 acres. Pack goals for the individual products will be announced at an early date.

Acreage goals for field crops call for production above the high levels of 1944. For flaxseed, sugar beets, and cover crop seeds, the goals have been materially increased over 1944. Moderate increases over 1944 acreage are shown for dry beans, potatoes, and tobacco. The goals for legume hay seeds and for soybeans are maintained at the record 1944 levels.

The goals call for increased milk production, for a larger slaughter of cattle and more spring pigs to meet the increased military and civilian demands for meat. Because of recent changes in needs, the 1945 egg goal has been increased by about 10 per cent over the preliminary goal.

The crop goals for 1945 involve some shift in the pattern of production in line with the changing demand situation. Total crop acreage of 363,635,000 in the final goals is approximately the same as recommended in the preliminary goals and nearly 3 per cent larger than 1944 planted acreage.

Senate Hearing Starts Tuesday On Bill to Extend Life of CCC

Hearings before a subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee on legislation to extend the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation and expand its powers will open on Tuesday, January 23. Senator Bankhead, chairman of the subcommittee, has introduced a bill (S. 298) which contains a section that would give the Corporation authority to conduct subsidy operations "designed to support prices or obtain production of agricultural commodities, or to absorb abnormal costs in connection with the transportation of agricultural commodities and foods."

As introduced, the bill would exempt the Corporation from the ban in the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942 as amended by the Stabilization Extension Act of 1944 against further expansion of subsidy activities by government corporations and agencies. It would extend the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation until June 30, 1947, and increase its borrowing power by two billion dollars.

A similar bill (HR 1450) has been introduced in the House by Representative Spence, and the House is expected later to conduct its own hearings.

Some Citrus Juices Rationed; Army Gets Rest of New Pack

Point values were restored to canned grapefruit juice and blended citrus juice by the Office of Price Administration, effective January 18, and at the same time, the War Food Administration issued War Food Order 122 requiring canners of grapefruit juice and blended citrus juice to confine sales, deliveries, and shipments of these products to the Armed Forces on and after January 18. Orange juice continues ration point free. Issuance of both orders is an emergency measure resulting from increased military requirements and is designed to assure the availability of these commodities to meet these requirements, the agencies said.

Container sizes and the new point values for grapefruit juice and orange-grapefruit blended juice are: No. 2 can, 10 points; 46 ounce can, 20 points; No. 10 can, 40 points.

Canners are required under WFO 22.7 to set aside a portion of their total 1944-45 season production for government use, including use of the military services, but offers from current production to date have not yet been sufficient to meet the needs of the Army Quartermaster Corps. As soon as these needs are provided, WFO 122, the new set-aside order, will be revoked. Meanwhile, sale and delivery into retail channels will be confined to stocks already in wholesale and retail outlets.

Cabbage Stocks on January 1

Stocks of storage cabbage in the hands of growers and local dealers on January 1, 1945, are estimated at 22,600 tons, or only 7 per cent of the 1944 production of Danish (storage) type cabbage. This is the second consecutive year that stocks have set a new low record, with holdings this year at a level of 12 per cent below that of January 1, 1944, and 60 per cent below the 10-year (1934-43) average on January 1. In New York, where approximately 60 per cent of the total United States Danish crop is grown and where about 85 per cent of total storage stocks usually are located, holdings are only 19,800 tons.

House Group Queries Hershey on Farm Labor Draft Policy

Selective Service Director Hershey's latest directive ordering local draft boards to tighten deferments for farmers under 26 caused considerable comment in the House this week when a group of nearly 200 representatives headed by Representative Lemke of North Dakota met with Director Hershey and complained that local boards were disregarding the Tydings Amendment and that further drafting of farm labor would lower the Nation's food production.

In reply to a number of critical questions by House members, Director Hershey said that local draft boards which ignore the Tydings Amendment are not following his (Hershey's) instructions. He said he would welcome suggestions on the part of the House as to means of requiring local boards to follow the Tydings Amendment. Hershey aded, however, that he did not see how he could be more explicit in his instructions to local boards since the boards have been operating with full knowledge of the Tydings Amendment for two years.

About half of the 364,000 men under 26 now deferred on farms will have to be called into the service by June, Hershey said.

The House Military Affairs Committee continued its study of the "work or fight" bill, and as the LETTER went to press, Chairman May was holding hearings on the farm labor phases of the bill. Final committee action on the bill in some form is expected to come by the middle of next week.

Georgia Association Officers

The following were elected officers of the Georgia Canners Association at their annual meeting on January 17 and 18: President, J. Logan Bloodworth, Haddock, Ga.; first vice-president, Fondren Mitchell, Thomasville, Ga.; second vice-president, Ed Holmes, Sandersville; secretary-treasurer, Jesse Moore, Haddock.

Howard R. Smith of the Association's Washington Research Laboratory delivered a paper on "The Processing of Peaches."

WFA to Buy Dry Noodle Soup

The War Food Administration has announced that it will purchase 770,000 packages (2¼-oz.) of dry noodle soup. Inquiries should be addressed to the WFA, Washington 25, D. C.